

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00 NSAE-00 SCA-01

VO-03 L-03 PRS-01 DRC-01 RSC-01 /031 W

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P 120023Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9202

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR/SGEN/CVIS/MX

SUBJECT: ELIMINATION OF ARTICLE I OF VISA AGREEMENT:
PROPOSED PRESS RELEASE

REF: STATE 237231

1. IT IS NOW ANTICIPATED THAT AMBASSADOR MCBRIDE WILL EXCHANGE NOTES WITH FONSECRETARY RABASA DECEMBER 14, 1973, WHEREUPON TWO GOVERNMENTS WILL AGREE TO ELIMINATION OF ARTICLE I OF 1953 VISA AGREEMENT. MEXICANS HAVE REWORDED THEIR NOTE TO PROVIDE FOR 30-DAY NOTIFICATION PERIOD FOLLOWING EXCHANGE (REFTEL).

2. EMBASSY IS CONSCIOUS OF POSSIBILITY THAT, DESPITE INTERNAL GOM NOTIFICATION TO APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES, THERE MAY BE INCIDENTS AFTER EXPIRATION OF 30-DAY GRACE PERIOD IN WHICH MEXICAN OFFICIALS PRESENT THEMSELVES FOR ENTRY ON BASIS OF THEIR GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTATION. IN ORDER TO PRECLUDE, OR AT LEAST MINIMIZE, SUCH INCIDENTS AND RELATED UNFAVORABLE PUBLICITY, EMBASSY PROPOSES TO ISSUE PRESS RELEASE WHEN NOTES ARE EXCHANGED. LIKEWISE, WE WILL URGE GOM TO PUBLICIZE NEW PROCEDURES AS WIDELY AS POSSIBLE.

3. SUGGESTED TEXT OF PRESS RELEASE AS FOLLOWS:

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"ON DECEMBER 14, RESPONDING TO A MEXICAN GOVERNMENT

INITIATIVE, AMBASSADOR ROBERT H. MCBRIDE EXCHANGED NOTES WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY EMILIO O. RABASA WHEREBY THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES AND MEXICO AGREED TO AMEND THE BILATERAL VISA AGREEMENT OF 1953. UNDER ARTICLE I OF THAT AGREEMENT, PASSPORT AND VISA REQUIREMENTS WERE WAIVED ON A BASIS OF RECIPROCITY FOR MILITARY OR CIVILIAN OFFICIALS OR EMPLOYEES OF THE MEXICAN NATIONAL, STATE AND MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS, AND THE MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILIES. THE NEW AMENDMENT WILL ELIMINATE THIS PARTICULAR ARTICLE OF THE AGREEMENT.

THROUGH THE DECEMBER 14 EXCHANGE OF NOTES, THE TWO GOVERNMENTS WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A 30-DAY GRACE PERIOD TO NOTIFY INTERESTED PARTIES OF THE CHANGE IN THE AGREEMENT. AS OF JANUARY 14, 1974, OFFICIALS OF EACH COUNTRY WILL BE REQUIRED TO PRESENT VALID PASSPORTS AND VISAS FOR ENTRY INTO THE OTHER, OR OTHERWISE TO MEET THE REGULATORY PROVISIONS OF THE TWO GOVERNMENTS, FOR EXAMPLE BY PRESENTATION OF A BORDER CROSSING CARD.

THIS AMENDMENT TO THE VISA AGREEMENT IS SEEN AS A POSITIVE STEP BY THE TWO GOVERNMENTS AIMED AT ENSURING COMPLIANCE WITH THE INTENT OF LEGISLATION IN EACH COUNTRY PERTAINING TO THE ENTRY OF ALIEN VISITORS."

4. EMBASSY INFORMALLY WILL RAISE IDEA OF PRESS RELEASE AND VISA AND PASSPORT WAIVERS FOR IBWC OFFICIALS WITH FONSECRETARIAT DEC. 12. WE WILL REPORT GOM REACTION.

5. REQUEST DEPARTMENT APPROVAL OF PROPOSED PRESS RELEASE.
MCBRIDE

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